



The Sixty-sixth Season of
The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lammot Belin
Concerts

National Gallery of Art
2,668th Concert

Harvard Glee Club
Jameson N. Marvin, *director*

March 23, 2008
Sunday Afternoon, 4:00 pm
East Building Auditorium

Admission free

The program will be announced from the stage

The Musicians

HARVARD GLEE CLUB

America's oldest college chorus, the Harvard Glee Club was founded in March 1858 by the president of Harvard's Pierian Sodality, the nineteenth-century predecessor of the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra. Through the rest of the century, the glee club numbered one or two dozen men and sang a repertoire ranging from old European and American college and folk songs to contemporary art songs to popular operetta and show tunes. Accompaniment was often provided by banjo and mandolin ensembles and local bands. The club performed in metropolitan Boston and throughout the northeast United States.

The Harvard Glee Club became one of the first American college choruses to concertize in Europe when it accepted the invitation of the French government for an extensive tour during June and July 1921, performing in concert halls in major cities and at a World War I memorial at Strasbourg Cathedral. Not only was this tour documented by almost daily reports in the French and American press, but it also inspired new pieces of music, written specifically for the Harvard ensemble by two young French composers—Francis Poulenc (*Chanson a boire*, allegedly inspired by a reception for the glee club) and Darius Milhaud (*Psaume 121*).

There have been just five conductors of the Harvard Glee Club: Archibald T. Davison (1919–1933), G. Wallace Woodworth (1933–1958), Elliot Forbes (1958–1970), F. John Adams (1970–1978), and Jameson N. Marvin (since 1978). Many of their students and assistant conductors have become leaders in American music, including Leonard Bernstein, Elliot Carter, Irving Fine, John Harbison, Virgil Thomson, and Hugh Wolf. The current choral directors at Cornell University and Occidental College are glee club alumni, as are numerous managers of orchestras and festivals all over the United States. The late J. Carter Brown, who was director of the National Gallery of Art from 1969 to 1992, was also a proud alumnus of the Harvard Glee Club, and he invited the ensemble to perform at the Gallery on several occasions.

Today the Harvard Glee Club consists of about sixty-five men from all over the United States and abroad, mostly undergraduates at Harvard College, plus a few students from Harvard's graduate schools. Very few of the members major in music or are destined for a musical career. Whether performing by itself or with the Radcliffe Choral Society and the Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum, the chorus continues to flourish, demonstrating the persisting vitality of men's choral music on campus and in concert halls and churches all over the world.

JAMESON N. MARVIN

Jameson N. Marvin is director of choral activities and senior lecturer on music at Harvard University. He conducts the Harvard Glee Club, the Radcliffe Choral Society, and the Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum and teaches courses in choral conducting, masterpieces of choral literature, and renaissance performance practices. Prior to his appointment to Harvard in 1978, Marvin was director of choral music at Vassar College and conductor of the Cappella Festival Chamber Choir and Orchestra. He has held conducting and teaching appointments at Bard College, Lehigh University, and the University of Illinois. In 1984 he was a visiting scholar at Stanford University in California and Cambridge University in England. Over the past thirty-five years, Marvin has conducted some eighty symphonic choral works while developing a national reputation as a conductor, teacher, author, and scholar. He served on the national committee for the selection of conducting candidates for Fulbright fellowships and is the general editor of the *Oxford University Press Renaissance Choral Series for Men's and Women's Voices*. Marvin's Harvard choral ensembles have appeared at six national conventions of the American Choral Directors Association. He received a bachelor of arts degree in music composition from the University of California, Santa Barbara; a master of arts in choral conducting from Stanford University; and a doctor of musical arts in choral music from the University of Illinois. The *Boston Globe* has called Marvin "a musician of consummate mastery."

Next Week at the National Gallery of Art

Elina Vähälä, *violinist*

Mika Rännäli, *pianist*

Music by Copland, Debussy, Fauré, and Stravinsky

Presented in honor of the exhibition

In the Forest of Fontainebleau:

Painters and Photographers from Corot to Monet

March 30, 2008

Sunday evening, 6:30 pm

West Building, West Garden Court



The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed. Please be sure that cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices are turned off.

Music Department

National Gallery of Art

Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue NW

Washington, DC

Mailing address

2000B South Club Drive

Landover, MD 20785

www.nga.gov